

November 12, 1965

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The Honorable John W. Gardner
Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am told you have a special interest in academic studies on the human impact of automation, to the point of personal impetus for a new institute focussed on this problem. May I make two observations?

1. The revolutionary impact of biological science and medical technology is usually overlooked in these projections.
2. The university is the appropriate situs of such studies. It needs to be stimulated to effective response, but this should take precedence over schemes that would rob universities of their most foresighted talents and missions.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

Enclosure: J. Lederberg, 1963. A crisis in evolution. New Scientist 21: 212-213.

GARDNER